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[Title of the Invention] VIDEO CAMERA INCORPORATING A STILL CAMERA

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[Title of the Invention] VIDEO CAMERA INCORPORATING A STILL CAMERA [Claims]

[Claim 1]

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A video camera incorporating a still camera, comprising:

a silver salt picture shooting section having a silver salt picture recording means and a silver salt information recording means;

a video signal recording section having a video signal recording means and a video information recording means;

a video signal reproduction section having a video signal reproducing means, a video information reproducing means, and an electric display device;

a silver salt shooting information output means for outputting various items of information as to shooting;

a silver salt information input means for inputting the various items of information as to shooting; and

a control section for recording, reproducing, and displaying the silver salt information of the silver salt picture shooting section and the video information of the video signal recording section.

[Claim 2]

A video camera incorporating a still camera as claimed in claim 1,

which is capable of displaying on the electric display device various items of information recorded by the silver salt picture shooting section and by the video signal recording section and various items of information to be recorded by the silver salt picture shooting section and by the video signal recording section.

[Claim 3]

A video camera incorporating a still camera as claimed in claim 1, wherein the various items of information include at least four out of individual

identification number, frame number, date, time, print aspect ratio, title, number of prints, light source nature, and television display aspect ratio.

[Claim 4]

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A video camera incorporating a still camera as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the various items of information are rewritable by means of the silver salt information input means.

[Claim 5]

A video camera incorporating a still camera as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the silver salt picture shooting section is provided with a silver salt information reproducing means.

[Claim 6]

A video camera incorporating a still camera as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the control section is provided with a function for restricting reproduction of a video signal according to information from the video information reproducing means.

[Claim 7]

A video camera incorporating a still camera as claimed in claim 6,

wherein the restriction is invoked by at least one of the items of information including individual identification number, frame number, date, time, print aspect ratio, and movie recording status, and content of the restriction is to reproduce an image as a still image.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates to a camera that functions both as a still camera and as a video camera, and particularly to a video camera incorporating a still camera in which the recording of various items of shooting-related information and the management of index information are performed in novel manners.

[0002]

[Prior Art]

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In general, a video camera incorporating a still camera is provided with various operation modes such as a silver salt shooting mode, a video shooting mode, a simultaneous shooting mode for simultaneously performing video movie shooting and silver salt picture shooting, a video playback mode, a still video shooting mode, and an edit mode for editing the information recorded in the shooting information recording portion on a silver salt film. Of these modes, an appropriate one is selected as required to perform shooting, reproduction, editing, and other operations.

[0003]

However, since such a still-camera-incorporating video camera has various and complicated functions, it is necessary to indicate on a display such as a viewfinder what operation is currently being performed and what are the current states of the items needed for editing, such as individual identification number, frame number, date, time, print aspect ratio, whether or not in process of movie recording, and other items, so that such information is notified to the user and recorded on a recording medium.

[0004]

In this case, when still-image shooting is performed during video movie shooting, for example, the camera is expected to be capable of searching for still-picture shooting information during reproduction. Accordingly, in order for the user to recognize the existence of the still-picture on a recording medium, the camera is also expected to be capable of displaying the still-picture shooting information in a display unit.

[0005]

In one conventional still-camera-incorporating video camera that can display such information, reproduction conditions are changed in accordance with the data of

an ID-I signal which represents the index data recorded in a data area of a recording medium so that, when wide-screen recording is selected, the screen will be automatically changed from a normal screen to a wide screen. Another conventional still-camera-incorporating video camera performs a date search, that is, it searches the data area for a turning point of date to reproduce the portion starting from the turning point for around 10 seconds for a searching purpose.

[0006]

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[Problems to be Solved by the Invention]

However, in the former conventional example, reproduction conditions are changed according to the data from the data area indeed, but only to change the screen from the normal screen to the horizontally extended wide screen. Accordingly, even though it is possible to display a still picture in the display unit, it is not possible to display still-picture shooting information by use of the automatic normal/wide screen switching function.

[0007]

On the other hand, in the latter conventional example, it is not possible to display still-picture shooting information by use of the function for searching for a turning point of date to reproduce the portion starting from the turning point for a while for a searching purpose.

[8000]

An object of the present invention is to provide a video camera incorporating a still camera which is provided with a function for displaying still-picture shooting information in a display unit when it is necessary to search a recording medium for still-picture shooting information during reproduction in the case where still-picture shooting is performed during video movie shooting.

[0009]

[Means for Solving the Problem]

To achieve the above object, according to the present invention, a video

camera incorporating a still camera is provided with: a silver salt picture shooting section having a silver salt picture recording means and a silver salt information recording means; a video signal recording section having a video signal recording means and a video information recording means; a video signal reproduction section having a video signal reproducing means, a video information reproducing means, and an electric display device; a silver salt shooting information output means for outputting various items of information as to shooting; a silver salt information input means for inputting the various items of information as to shooting; and a control section for recording, reproducing, and displaying the silver salt information of the silver salt picture shooting section and the video information of the video signal recording section.

[0010]

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In this structure, what can be displayed on the electric display device may include various items of information recorded by the silver salt picture shooting section and by the video signal recording section and various items of information to be recorded by the silver salt picture shooting section and by the video signal recording section. The various items of information may include at least four out of individual identification number, frame number, date, time, print aspect ratio, title, number of prints, light source nature, and television display aspect ratio. The various items of information may be rewritable by means of the silver salt information input means.

[0011]

Moreover, in this structure, the silver salt picture shooting section may be provided with a silver salt information reproducing means. The control section may be provided with a function for restricting reproduction of a video signal according to information from the video information reproducing means. In this case, the restriction may be invoked by at least one of the items of information including individual identification number, frame number, date, time, print aspect ratio, and

movie recording status, and the content of the restriction may include reproducing an image as a still image.

[0012]

[Workings]

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In the above structure, it is possible, on the one hand, to simultaneously record a silver salt picture and silver salt information, and, on the other hand, in the image signal recording section, to simultaneously record an image signal and image information. The silver salt information recorded during the recording of silver salt pictures and image signals can be displayed on the electric display device. For example, when silver salt picture shooting is performed during video movie shooting, the content of a silver salt picture can be displayed as a still picture during the reproduction of a video movie with reproduction conditions adjusted in accordance with the data obtained from the data area. Thus, by searching for, extracting, and then reproducing the data of a still picture recorded when a silver salt picture was taken, it is possible to view the content of a silver salt picture before the processing of the silver salt picture.

[0013]

[Embodiment]

Hereinafter, an embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to the drawings. Fig. 1 schematically shows the structure of the embodiment. As shown in Fig. 1, the video camera incorporating a still camera according to the present embodiment includes a camera body C, a main lens L serving as a main optical system, and a lighting and flashing unit F (hereinafter referred to as the "flash-and-light"). The video shooting optical system and the sliver salt (silver halide) shooting optical system, which will be described later, are formed of common structural members.

[0014]

In the following description of the embodiment, for easier reference between

the description and the drawings, the reference designations of the components of the camera body C begin with C, those of the main lens L begin with L, those of the flash-and-light F begin with F, and those of the operation unit COP provided in the camera body C begin with COP.

[0015]

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Although the main lens L and the flash-and-light F are constructed separately from the camera body C in this embodiment, the present invention includes a structure in which the camera body C and the main lens L, the camera body C and the flash-and-light F, or these three portions are formed as one unit. The video shooting optical system and the silver salt shooting optical system may be formed separately from each other. Moreover, although this embodiment adopts a shooting system of an SLR type in which a shooting system for silver salt shooting and a shooting system for electronic shooting are built into one unit, it is also possible to use separate shooting systems of different types for silver salt shooting and for electronic shooting.

[0016]

As shown in Fig. 1, the camera body C is provided with a silver salt picture shooting section including a shutter driver C06, a shutter C07, a film C08, and a film advancing controller C09 (the components thus far mentioned constitute a silver salt picture recording means), and a silver salt information recording section (a silver salt information recording means) C37. Moreover, the camera body C is also provided with a video signal recording/reproduction section including an image processor C24, a recording/reproduction converter C25, a head C26, an EVF C27 serving as an electric display device, a recording medium C28, and a recording medium driver C36.

[0017]

First, the structure of the main lens L will be described below, with reference to Fig. 1. L01 and L03 represent operation rings manually operated by the user. L01 represents a focusing operation ring and L03 represents a zooming operation ring. L13 represents a stationary barrel. L02 and L04 represent operation ring condition

detectors which detect rotation of the operation rings L01 and L03, respectively. Typically, the detectors L02 and L04 comprise encoders.

[0018]

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L05 represents a focal length detector for detecting the focal length of the main lens L. L06 represents a lens microcomputer serving as a operational controller of the main lens L. L07 represents a zooming motor for zooming the main lens L. L08 represents a zooming motor monitor for detecting the rotation condition of the zooming motor L07. The monitor L08 comprises, for example, a photo-interrupter.

[0019]

L09 represents a focusing motor for focusing the main lens L. L10 represents an AF/MF switching button for switching between automatic focusing and manual focusing. L11 represents a main lens aperture diaphragm. L12 represents a main lens aperture diaphragm controller. The main lens aperture diaphragm controller L12 includes a stepping motor for actuating the aperture diaphragm, and an aperture condition detector.

[0020]

The focusing and zooming operation rings L01 and L03 are fitted on the peripheral surface of the stationary barrel L13 to be rotatable about the optical axis of the main lens L. Rotation of the focusing operation ring L01 activates power focusing. Rotation of the zooming operation ring L03 activates power zooming.

[0021]

Next, the structure of the camera body C will be described below. C01 represents a camera microcomputer serving as a operational controller of the camera body C. The camera microcomputer C01 exchanges information with the main lens L through data/power-supply contacts C30. As to the flash-and-light F, the camera microcomputer C01 exchanges information with the operational controller F01 of the flash-and-light F through contacts provided in an accessory shoe C20. The external view of the shoe C20 for attaching an external flash-and-light is shown in Fig. 2.

[0022]

C05 represents an AF auxiliary mirror provided at the rear of the above-mentioned pellicle mirror C04. The subject light having passed through the main lens L is split by the pellicle mirror C04, and one of the thus split light beams is further split by the AF auxiliary mirror C05 and directed to a focus detector C02. The focus detector C02 transmits focus information to the camera microcomputer C01. The focus information processed by the camera microcomputer C01 is transmitted to the lens microcomputer L06, which then issues a command for driving the focusing motor L09 to perform focusing.

[0023]

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C06 represents a shutter driver which opens and closes the shutter C07 in response to a command from the camera microcomputer C01. More specifically, the camera microcomputer C01 issues a command signal to the shutter driver C06 based on information from the operation unit COP, a brightness detector C12 and others. C08 represents a film, whose surface is exposed to the light coming from the subject through the opening created by the releasing of the shutter C07 so that a latent image of the subject is formed thereupon. C09 represents a film advancing controller for driving an incorporated motor to wind and rewind the film.

[0024]

The other of the light beams split by the pellicle mirror C04 is directed through a condenser lens C10, a reflecting mirror C11, an ND filter C13, a relay optical system including a relay lens C14, an optical low-pass filter C16, and an IR cut filter C17 to a CCD image sensor C21. The reflecting mirror C11 is partially semi-transparent, so that part of the light is admitted to the brightness detector C12 through the semi-transparent portion for the detection of the brightness of the subject.

[0025]

C15 represents an ND filter controller for controlling the ND filter C13 based on ND density information set by the camera microcomputer C01 based on the difference

in sensitivity between the film C08 loaded in the camera body C and the CCD image sensor C21 and based on the brightness of the subject detected by the brightness detector C12. The relay optical system is provided with a relay aperture diaphragm C18, which is controlled by a relay aperture diaphragm controller C19 so that the quantity of the light directed to the image sensor C21 is controlled.

[0026]

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The CCD image sensor C21 converts the light from the subject into an electric signal based on driving pulses generated by a CCD driving pulse generator C23 in response to a command from the camera microcomputer C01. The photoelectrically converted electric signal is transmitted to an image forming processor C22, then subjected to analog processing such as sampling, then subjected to analog-to-digital (A/D) conversion, and then transmitted to an image processor C24.

[0027]

The image processor C24 comprises a processor unit for performing γ (gamma) correction, white balance (WB) correction, and luminance/color-difference (Y/C) conversion, a memory unit for storing image data from the processor unit, an operational controller unit for processing image in response to a command from the camera microcomputer C01, a memory unit for storing image signals from the operational controller unit, and a superimposer unit for performing superimposing. The image signals processed by the image processor C24 are transmitted to an EVF (Electronic ViewFinder) unit C27, a recording/reproduction converter C25, and an external output port C32 which is also shown in Fig. 5. In Fig. 1, the part from α to α of the transmission path between the image processor C24 and the external output port C32 is not shown for reasons of space.

[0028]

The EVF unit C27 for displaying images comprises a viewfinder unit including a liquid crystal finder, a cathode ray tube (CRT), or the like, and a converter unit for converting image signals from the image processor C24 into signals for driving the

display unit. C35 represents an operation indication unit for displaying information on operation of the operation unit COP. The operation indication unit includes a large-size liquid crystal display panel C35A as shown in Figs. 2 and 6, and a lamp C35B as shown in Fig. 4.

[0029]

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The recording/reproduction converter C25 encodes image signals from the image processor C24, sound signals from a sound processor C31, and other signals and information from the camera microcomputer C01 into signals adapted for a recording format, and transmits the encoded signals to a head C26. C28 represents a recording medium. As the recording medium, a magnetic tape, a magneto-optical disk, a solid-state memory (RAM), or the like may be used. In this embodiment, a videocassette having a magnetic tape loaded therein is used as a representative of the recording medium.

[0030]

C36 represents a recording medium driver for driving the recording medium C28. The signals transmitted to the head C26 are recorded onto the recording medium C28 driven by the recording medium driver C36. Likewise, the data recorded on the recording medium C28 are read out by the head C26, and, through the decoding performed by the recording/reproduction converter C25, reproduced as image signals, sound signals, other signals, and information, which are then transmitted to the image processor C24 and to the sound processor C31.

[0031]

C37 represents a silver salt shooting information recording section for recording various information onto an information recording area on a film, and it includes a converter unit for converting the information from the camera microcomputer C01 into a format for recording, and a head for performing recording. In some cases, the silver salt information recording section C37 is so constructed that it can perform reproduction as well as recording.

[0032]

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Sound is picked up by a stereophonic microphone C34 provided in a suitable position on the front surface of the camera body C as shown in Fig. 4, and is processed by the sound processor C31. The sound signals processed by the sound processor C31 are transmitted to the recording/reproduction converter C25, to a speaker C33, and to an output port C32. In Fig. 1, the part from b to b of the transmission path between the sound processor C31 and the microphone C34 is not shown for reasons of space. C29 represents a battery provided in the camera body C to supply power to the camera body C and to the main lens L.

[0033]

C03 represents a camera-shake detector which detects a camera-shake of the entire camera system with the main lens L attached to the camera body C, and transmits the detection signal to the camera microcomputer C01. The camera-shake compensation in the video signal shooting section is performed by controlling the readout area of the CCD image sensor C21.

[0034]

Next, the operation unit COP will be described below with reference to the external views of the present embodiment shown in Figs. 2 to 5. COP09 represents an operation mode selecting switch which also serves as a main switch. By operating the switch COP09, it is possible to select one of six operation modes OFF, P_M , P_H , M_V , V, SV and E in total.

[0035]

More specifically, the selecting switch COP09 is switched to the OFF position to turn the entire camera off, to the P_M position to activate a simultaneous shooting mode in which video movie shooting and silver salt shooting can be simultaneously performed, to the P_H position to activate a silver salt shooting mode in which silver salt shooting can be performed, to the M_V position to activate a video shooting mode in which video movie shooting can be performed, to the V position to activate a video

reproduction mode in which a recorded video can be reproduced, to the SV position to activate a still video shooting mode in which still video image shooting can be performed, and to the E position to activate an edit mode in which the information recorded on a shooting information recording portion, which will be described later, of the silver salt film C08 can be edited.

[0036]

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COP01 represents a release button used in silver salt shooting. COP02 represents a switching dial for varying aperture values (AV) and time values (TV) and for switching modes in silver salt shooting and video movie shooting. By turning the switching dial COP02 while holding down a subsequently-described mode button COP07, a shooting scene is selected. By turning the switching dial COP02 while holding down a subsequently-described program button COP12, a mode is selected from among an A (aperture priority) mode, an S (shutter speed priority) mode, and an M (manual) mode.

[0037]

COP03 represents a deck open button for ejecting a videocassette tape C28 serving as a recording medium. Operation of the button COP03 opens a grip portion to allow loading and unloading of the videocassette tape C28. COP04 represents an operation button which functions as a fade-out button for starting fade-out in video shooting mode (M_V) and simultaneous shooting mode (P_M) and which functions as a trigger button for triggering a preview of a still image in silver salt shooting mode (P_H) and still video shooting mode (SV).

[0038]

COP05 represents a lens exchange button for detaching the main lens L from the camera body C. COP06 represents a red-eye reduction button for activating a red-eye reduction function in flash shooting in silver salt shooting mode (P_H) and still video shooting mode (SV). COP07 represents a mode button which is operated together with the mode switching dial COP02 to select a shooting scene such as a

portrait scene or a sports scene in simultaneous shooting mode (P_M) , silver salt shooting mode (P_H) , video shooting mode (M_V) , and still video shooting mode (SV).

[0039]

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COP08 represents a film cartridge exchange button for loading and unloading a film cartridge. COP10 represents a frame aspect ratio changing switch for silver salt shooting. COP11 represents a video movie frame size changing switch. COP12 represents a program button which, when operated alone, switches the shooting mode to a program mode. By operating the program button COP12 together with the mode switching dial COP02, a mode can be selected from among the A (aperture priority) mode, the S (shutter priority) mode, and the M (manual) mode in simultaneous shooting mode (P_M) , silver salt shooting mode (P_H) , video shooting mode (M_V) , and still video shooting mode (SV).

[0040]

COP13 represents a zooming button which varies the focal length of the main lens L as the zooming ring of the main lens L does. COP14 represents a recording ON/OFF button which controls starting and stopping of recording onto the recording medium C28 in simultaneous shooting mode (P_M) and video shooting mode (M_V). In silver salt shooting mode (M_V) and still video shooting mode (SV), by pressing the operation button COP04 while holding down the button COP14, an image shot with the aperture diaphragm open is displayed in the EVF unit C27. By operating the switching dial COP02 while holding down the button COP14, the value of AV is varied.

[0041]

COP15 represents a camera-shake compensation ON/OFF button for activating and deactivating camera-shake compensation in simultaneous shooting mode (P_M) and video shooting mode (M_V) . In silver salt shooting mode (P_H) and still video shooting mode (SV), by operating the mode switching dial COP02 while holding down the button COP15, exposure compensation is performed.

[0042]

COP16 represents a first liquid crystal unit pop-up button. By operating the button COP16, a liquid crystal unit forming the EVF unit C27 is popped up, and the grip portion is unlocked to allow the EVF unit C27 together with the grip portion to rotate around the camera body C. Thus, it is possible to shoot not only at eye level but also at waist level.

[0043]

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COP17 represents a forced flashing button for forcibly firing a flash in silver salt shooting mode (P_H) and still video shooting mode (SV). COP18 represents a message display ON/OFF button for turning on and off messages displayed in the EVF unit C27. COP19 represents a button for controlling sound volume and picture qualities (brightness, hue, and others) of images displayed in the EVF unit C27 in V mode.

[0044]

COP20 represents a second liquid crystal pop-up button. By operating the button COP20, the liquid crystal unit forming the EVF unit C27 is unfolded longitudinally. Thus, it is possible, for example, to shoot at waist level holding the camera vertically in silver salt shooting mode (P_H) and still video shooting mode (SV).

[0045]

COP21 represents an automatic rewinding button for starting rewinding of a film even at a midpoint in a roll. COP22 represents a single-shot/continuous/self-timer button for switching among single-shot, continuous, and self-timer shooting in silver salt shooting mode (P_H) and still video shooting mode (SV). In Figs. 5 and 6, C40 represents a lid of a battery cavity and C41 represents a tripod hole.

[0046]

Fig. 6 shows an example of the large-size liquid crystal display panel C35A of the operation indication unit C35. As shown in the figure, the large-size liquid crystal display panel C35A includes a camera operation mode indicator, a tape run counter, a date indicator, a shutter speed indicator, an exposure compensation indicator, a redeve reduction indicator, an aperture value/exposure compensation value indicator, a

mode indicator, a battery level indicator, a self-timer mark, a film counter, a film cartridge mark, a wireless flash indicator, a winding mode indicator, a shooting scene selection indicator, a manual focus indicator, and others.

[0047]

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The shooting scene selection indicator is for displaying the conditions of a shooting scene selected from portrait, landscape, close-up, sports, and night portrait/night scenes. The lamp C35B shown in Fig. 5 is lit in self-timer shooting and in red-eye reduction shooting.

[0048]

Back in Fig. 3, COP30 to COP34 represent a group of buttons for controlling video. COP30 represents a rewind button, COP31 represents a playback button, COP32 represents a fast-forward button, COP33 represents a stop button, and COP34 represents a pause button.

[0049]

Back in Fig. 2, COP 35 represents a counter ON/OFF button for turning on and off a counter that is displayed in the EVF unit C27 in simultaneous shooting (P_M) mode and video shooting mode(M_V). COP36 represents an automatic button for switching between automatic and manual operation of white balance (WB) adjustment in simultaneous shooting mode (P_M) and video shooting mode (M_V). COP37 represents a menu button for turning on the display of a menu in the EVF unit C27. COP38 represents a standby button for driving a recording medium C28 up to its last recording area.

[0050]

Fig. 7 shows the construction of the principal portion of the video camera incorporating a still camera according to the present invention. In the figure, G represents an silver salt information input means, with which the operator inputs information from the outside of the camera. By operating this input means G, information can be inputted to a shooting information output means C01B, which will

be described later, provided within the camera microcomputer C01.

[0051]

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Fig. 8 shows the state of the silver salt film C08 pulled out from the film cartridge C08C. Part of the film C08 is coated with magnetic material so that information can be magnetically recorded thereupon. In this film C08, C08A represents a film leader portion including recording tracks C08AJ on which information relevant to the whole film is recorded. C08B is a portion corresponding to the first frame and comprises an image formation portion C08BK, perforations C08BP and a recording track C08BJ on which information relevant to each frame is magnetically recorded. The same pattern as this shooting-frame portion C08B is repeated up to the last end of the film as many times as the number of frames available for shooting.

[0052]

When a film C08 is newly loaded into the still-camera-incorporating video camera of the embodiment of the present invention, on detection of the loading, a silver salt film individual identification number/frame number output section C01A in the camera microcomputer C01 generates an individual identification number. The individual identification number is then transmitted to a silver-salt/video information recording/reproduction/display control unit C01D.

[0053]

The control unit C01D transmits the individual identification number to the silver salt shooting information recording section C37 of the silver salt picture shooting section in order to record the individual identification number on the recording track C08AJ of the film leader portion C08A. If an identification number is already recorded on the recording track C08AJ, the identification number is read out by the silver salt shooting information recording section C37 and is then transmitted to the control unit C01D. The control unit C01D transmits this identification number to the image processor C24 in the video signal recording/reproduction section so that the individual identification number of the loaded film C08 is displayed in the EVF unit

C27.

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[0054]

Similarly, when a recording medium C28 is newly loaded into the still-camera-incorporating video camera of the embodiment of the present invention, on detection of the loading, a video recording medium individual identification number output section C01C in the camera microcomputer C01 generates an individual identification number. The individual identification number is then transmitted to the silver-salt/video information recording/reproduction/display control unit C01D. This control unit C01D transmits the individual identification number to the recording/reproduction converter C25 and the head C26 in the video signal recording/reproduction section so that the individual identification number is recorded in the video information recording portion on the recording medium C28 and is displayed in the EVF unit C27 together with an indication that the medium is new.

[0055]

As an example, the data area (video information recording portion) of an 8mm-format videocassette tape used as a recording medium C28 is shown in Fig. 9. If an identification number is already recorded on the data area, the recording/reproduction converter C25 and the head C26 read out the identification number and transmits it to the control unit C01D. The control unit C01D transmits the identification number to the image processor C24 to display the individual identification number of the loaded recording medium C28 in the EVF unit C27 (this state, in which the individual identification number is displayed, is referred to as a set state).

[0056]

Next, a description will be given below as to shooting in silver salt shooting mode (P_H) with the camera in a set state. When the operation mode selecting switch COP09 is set to the P_H position, the camera microcomputer C01 sets operation buttons ready for silver salt shooting mode (P_H) . Simultaneously, the camera microcomputer C01 communicates with the lens microcomputer C01 and, when lens information is

transmitted to the camera computer C01, the video signal shooting section, the video signal recording/reproduction section, and the EVF unit C27 are activated.

[0057]

When the user recognizes a subject in the EVF unit C27 and presses the release button COP01 halfway in, thereby bringing the camera into an S10N state, the outputs of the brightness detector C12 and the focus detector C02 are transmitted to the camera microcomputer C01. A calculation section C01F in the camera microcomputer C01 processes those outputs with calculation to determine shooting conditions based on the lens information and the information on settings of the operation unit COP.

10 [0058]

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When the release button COP01 is pressed further in, thereby bringing the camera into an S2ON state, the aperture diaphragm L11 and the shutter C07 are controlled according to the determined shooting conditions, and silver salt shooting is performed. On completion of silver salt shooting, the film advancing controller C09 of the silver salt picture shooting section advances the film C08 one frame forward. Here, the shooting conditions and shooting information of the shot that has just been taken are recorded on the magnetic track C08BJ corresponding to the frame of the shot on the film C08. Table 1 shows an example of shooting information.

[0059]

In Table 1 below, the items of information listed under A are those which are most desirably recorded. The print aspect ratio is an item needed for specifying the aspect ratio when an image is printed and, as shown in Fig. 10, there are three types H, C and P of print aspect ratios. Fig. 10 shows the exposure area and the print sizes on a film for a silver salt film system having three formats 16:9, 2:3, and 1:3 disclosed in Japanese Laid-open Patent Application No. H7-84309. In this silver salt film system, the print size H is slightly smaller than the exposure area. In comparison with the print size H, the print size C is narrower, that is, horizontally smaller in the figure, and the print size P is shorter, that is, vertically smaller in the figure.

[0060]

Moreover, in Table 1, the items of information listed under B are those which are recorded according to the settings made by the operation unit COP. These items of information are gathered from a shooting information output section C01B and the video recording medium individual identification number output section C01C to the control unit C01D first, before they are supplied to the silver salt information recording section C37 in accordance with the settings made by the operation unit COP to be recorded on the film C08.

[0061]

10 [TABLE 1]

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A	В				
 Date and time Recording location of information upon printing procedure Print aspect ratio Identification number of the corresponding recording media 	 Light source information (WB information) Number of prints Lens focal length Aperture value Shutter speed Exposure compensation value Film ISO sensitivity Title TV-display aspect ratio Subject brightness Photometry method 				

[0062]

Simultaneously, the information is also recorded in a primary memory C01E in the camera microcomputer C01. The items to be recorded here may be the same as those recorded on the film C08, or different items may be selected. The primary memory C01E is required to have a capacity sufficient for storing information throughout a whole role of film, so that it can keep information at least until films are exchanged.

[0063]

Simultaneously with shooting, in the video signal recording/reproduction section, an image signal obtained almost simultaneously with the shooting is stored in an image memory 75 in the image processor C24. When the recording medium C28 becomes ready for recording, the image signal is recorded on the medium as a still image together with information outputted from the control unit C01D. The items of information thus recorded are shown in Table 2 below.

[0064]

[TABLE 2]

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Α	В				
 Date and time Recording location of information upon printing procedure Print aspect ratio Identification number of the corresponding film Frame number of the corresponding film 	 Light source information (WB information) Number of prints Lens focal length Aperture value Shutter speed Exposure compensation value Film ISO sensitivity Subject brightness Photometry method Title TV-display aspect ratio 				

[0065]

In Table 2 above, the items of information listed under A are those which are most desirably recorded. The items of information listed under B are those which are recorded according to the settings made by the operation unit COP. These items of information are gathered from the shooting information output section C01B and the silver salt film individual identification number/frame number output section C01A to the control unit C01D first, before they are outputted to the recording/reproduction converter C25 in accordance with the settings made by the operation unit COP to be

recorded on the recording medium C28.

[0066]

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According to one method of recording the information onto the recording medium C28, the information is recorded in the data area shown in Fig. 9. As another method of recording the information, Fig. 11 shows an example of recording and reproducing the information in the form of characters onto and from a video recording medium. According to this method, the information may be recorded in the form of characters on the screen as shown at (A) in Fig. 11, or on the screen ((C) in Fig. 11) immediately following the screen of a still image ((B) in Fig. 11) as shown at (B) and (C) in Fig. 11. Further, it is also possible to simultaneously record the information both in the form of characters and in the data area.

[0067]

Here, a still image is so recorded that it can be adapted for a plurality of print aspect ratios in case the aspect ratio is changed in edit mode (E) described later. Moreover, on the EVF screen immediately after shooting, the information in the form of characters and the subject image are displayed in a mixed fashion on the same screen as shown at (A) in Fig. 13, and it is possible to rewrite the shooting information as described later.

[0068]

Next, a description will be given below as to shooting in simultaneous shooting mode (P_M) with the camera in a set state. When the operation mode selecting switch COP09 is set to the P_M position, the camera microcomputer C01 sets operation buttons ready for simultaneous shooting mode (P_M) . Simultaneously, the camera microcomputer C01 communicates with the lens microcomputer C01, and lens information is transmitted to the camera microcomputer C01.

[0069]

Thereafter, the focus detector C02 and the brightness detector C12 are activated to perform AE (automatic exposure adjustment) and AF (automatic focus adjustment)

operations. Further, the video signal shooting section, the video signal recording/reproduction section, and the EVF unit C27 are activated to display a subject image captured through the taking lens in the EVF unit C27. When the user recognizes a subject in the EVF C27 and operates the recording ON/OFF button, recording of a movie is started.

[0070]

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In the movie-recording state, when the release button COP01 is pressed halfway in (to establish the S1ON state), the outputs of the focus detector C02 and the brightness detector C12 are transmitted to the camera microcomputer C01. The calculation section C01F processes those outputs with calculation to determine shooting conditions based on the lens information and the information on settings of the operation unit COP.

[0071]

When the release button COP01 is pressed further in to establish the S2ON state, the aperture diaphragm L11 and the shutter C07 are controlled according to the determined shooting conditions, and silver salt shooting is performed. On completion of silver salt shooting, the film advancing controller C09 of the silver salt picture shooting section advances the film C08 one frame forward. Here, the shooting conditions and shooting information of the shot that has just been taken are recorded on the magnetic track C08BJ corresponding to the frame of the shot on the film C08. Meanwhile, recording of the movie is continued. Table 3 below shows the items of shooting information in this case.

[0072]

[TABLE 3]

A B

• Date and time
• Recording location of information upon printing

• Number of prints

procedure	Lens focal length
Print aspect ratio	Aperture value
Identification number of	Shutter speed
the corresponding recording	Exposure compensation
medium	value
	Film ISO sensitivity
	Subject brightness
	Photometry method
	• Title
	TV-display aspect ratio

[0073]

In Table 3 above, the items of information listed under A are those which are most desirably recorded. The items of information listed under B are those which are recorded according to the settings made by the operation unit COP. These items of information are gathered from the shooting information output section C01B and the video recording medium individual identification number output section C01C to the control unit C01D first, before they are outputted to the silver salt information recording section C37 according to the settings made by the operation unit COP and are recorded on the film C08. Simultaneously, the information is also recorded in the primary memory C01E in the camera microcomputer C01. The items recorded here may be the same as those recorded on the film C08, or different items may be selected.

[0074]

Simultaneously with shooting, in the video signal recording/reproduction section, an image signal obtained almost simultaneously with the shooting is recorded together with the information outputted from the control unit C01D. The items of the recorded information are shown in Fig. 4 below.

[0075]

[TABLE 4]

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A	В			
Date and time	Light source information			

- Recording location of information upon printing procedure
- Print aspect ratio
- Identification number of the corresponding film
- Frame number of the corresponding film
- In process of movie shooting

(WB information)

- Number of prints
- Lens focal length
- Aperture value
- Shutter speed
- Exposure compensation value
- Film ISO sensitivity
- Subject brightness
- Photometry method
- Title
- TV-display aspect ratio

[0076]

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In Table 4 above, the items of information listed under A are those which are most desirably recorded. The items of information listed under B are those which are recorded according to the settings made by the operation unit COP. These items of information are gathered from the shooting information output section C01B and the silver salt film individual identification number/frame number output section C01A to the control unit C01D first, before they are outputted to the recording/reproduction converter C25 according to the settings made by the operation unit COP and are recorded on the recording medium C28. The items recorded here may be the same as those recorded on the film C08, or different items may be selected.

[0077]

According to one method of recording the information onto the recording medium C28, the information is recorded on the data area shown in Fig. 9. Alternatively, the information may be recorded in the form of characters on the screen as shown at (A) in Fig. 11, or on the screen ((C) in Fig. 11) immediately following the screen of a still image ((B) in Fig. 11) as shown at (B) and (C) in Fig. 11. Further, it is also possible to simultaneously record the information both in the form of characters and in the data area. It is to be noted, however, that screens containing only information in the form of characters ((C) in Fig. 11) are skipped during reproduction of a

movie.

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[0078]

The recording operation activated by operating the release button COP01 while the camera is in the video recording standby state or while movie-video recording is not performed in simultaneous shooting mode (P_M) is the same as the recording operation in silver salt shooting mode (P_H) . Recording performed during shooting has been described hereinbefore. Hereinafter, a description will be given as to reproduction and editing. The state in which some shooting has been performed in the set state is hereinafter referred to as "the shooting state". In this shooting state, when the operation mode selecting switch COP09 is set to the video reproduction mode (V) position, the camera microcomputer C01 sets operation buttons ready for the video reproduction mode (V).

[0079]

In this set state, a press of the rewind button COP30 rewinds the videocassette tape serving as the recording medium C28, a press of the stop button COP33 stops rewinding, and thereafter, a press of the playback button COP31 starts reproduction. The image signal recorded on the recording medium C28 and the shooting information recorded in the data area are read out by the head C26, decoded by the recording/reproduction converter C25, processed by the image processor C24, and then displayed in the EVF unit C27. Here, the display in the EVF unit C27 is performed according to the shooting information recorded in the data area of the recording medium C28 in the following manner.

[0800]

- 1) If no information is available as to still shooting, an ordinary video is reproduced.
 - 2) If information is available as to still shooting, and a movie is not being shot, a still image is reproduced. For example, screens as shown at (A) to (C) in Fig. 11 are displayed for approximately fifteen seconds.

3) If information is available as to still shooting, and a movie is being shot, an ordinary video is reproduced. However, a shutter sound accompanying shooting is not suppressed but kept alive. Alternatively, a still image is reproduced as in 2) above.

[0081]

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In the shooting state, when the operation mode selecting switch COP09 is set to the edit mode (E) position, the camera microcomputer C01 sets operation buttons ready for the edit mode (E). Simultaneously, the control unit C01D reads out the shooting information as to the loaded film C08 recorded in the primary memory C01E in the camera microcomputer C01, transmits the information to the image processor C24, and displays the information as index information in EVF C27 as shown in Fig. 12. As index information, shooting information of each frame is displayed together with the period from the first frame to the last frame of the film C08.

[0082]

In this state, when the playback button COP31 is pressed, the camera microcomputer C01 instructs the recording medium driver C36 to feed the tape backward, and reproduces the data in the data area through the head C26. In this process of reproduction, when information as to still shooting is found on the recording medium, feeding of the tape is stopped for a while so that the information of a still image and the shooting information are reproduced and displayed in the EVF unit C27. Search for information as to still shooting is realized, for example, by reproducing time codes to rewind the tape up to the same time point as the time inside the primary memory C01E and then reproducing data in the data area at a slow speed.

[0083]

Still images are reproduced as shown at (A) to (C) in Fig. 11. A still image is reproduced for approximately 15 seconds and, when this predetermined time passes away, the next image is reproduced. It is possible to rewind the tape during reproduction in order to search for information of the next still image. In this case, when the stop button COP33 is pressed during reproduction, the camera microcomputer CO1

stops the search for the next still image, and continues reproducing the still image that has been reproduced until that time, simultaneously superimposing the shooting information thereupon as shown at (A) in Fig. 13. Alternatively, an image to be edited with the fast-forward button and the rewind button in a screen as shown in Fig. 12 is first selected and is then searched for with a pause button. The searched image is displayed as shown at (A) in Fig. 13. Items to be edited can be selected with the fast-forward button COP32 and the rewind button COP30.

[0084]

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In order to rewrite a selected item, the screen is switched to an edit screen by pressing the pause button (set) COP34. A state of the screen observed after the print aspect ratio is selected as an item to be edited and the pause button COP34 is pressed in the screen shown at (A) in Fig. 13 is shown at (B) in Fig. 13. Here, the edge lines of the frames H, C and P appear on the screen. In this state, when the frame C is selected with the playback button COP31, the display of the portions other than the frame of the print aspect ratio C changes from colored to monochrome.

[0085]

Here, when the pause button COP34 is pressed, the print aspect ratio is switched to C, the data in the primary memory C01E is rewritten, and the screen returns to the state shown at (A) in Fig. 13. Simultaneously, the camera microcomputer C01 instructs the silver salt picture shooting section to rewrite the aspect ratio of the corresponding frame, so that the film C08 is rewound up to the corresponding frame and its aspect ratio is rewritten by the silver salt shooting information recording section C37.

[0086]

Operations on the screen of the EVF C27 unit are achieved by means of a silver salt information input section G. When the screen shown at (A) in Fig. 13 is displayed, a press of the playback button COP31 reproduces the next still image. When the screen shown at (A) in Fig. 13 is displayed, a press of the stop button COP33

returns the screen to an index screen as shown in Fig. 12. When the screen shown in Fig. 12 or Fig. 13 is displayed, switching of the operation mode selecting switch COP09 from the edit mode (E) position to another position leads the camera microcomputer C01 to cause the film C08 and the recording medium C28 to be driven up to their standby positions (for example, up to the top of the unexposed portion of the film C08, and up to the top of the unrecorded portion of the recording medium C28).

[0087]

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If the control is left as described above, the index data of a film C08 with which shooting is finished is kept stored in the primary memory C01E, causing shortage of available memory. In this case, by pressing the film cartridge exchange button COP08, the primary memory C01E is reset to allow exchange of films C08.

[8800]

However, since the above operation erases index data of a film C08 with which shooting is completed, it is necessary to create a new set of index data. The operation to achieve this will be described below. Although the following description deals with a tape-form recording medium C28, the same description is applicable to a disk-form recording medium.

[0089]

Fig. 14 shows an example of creating index data on a tape-form recording medium. As shown in the figure, an area for recording index data is provided beforehand at the top or end of the tape. Incidentally, in the case of a disk-form recording medium C28, an area 80 for recording index data is provided in the innermost or outermost portion thereof.

[0090]

Under the condition that the operation mode selecting switch COP09 is in the edit mode (E) position, when the film cartridge button COP08 is pressed, the camera microcomputer C01 instructs the recording medium driver C36 to feed the tape backward, and reproduces the data in the data area through the head C26. In this

process of reproduction in the reverse direction, when information as to still shooting is found on the recording medium, feeding of the tape is stopped for a while so that the information of a still image is reproduced in the forward direction and stored in the image memory in the image processor C24. Then, a next set of information as to still shooting is searched for and, when information as to still shooting is found, the information of a still image is stored in the image memory in the same manner as described above.

[0091]

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When still images are stored as described above until reaching the predetermined capacity of the image memory, the tape is driven up to its index area so that the information as to still images in the image memory and the corresponding shooting information are recorded therein. Here, the shooting information refers to that stored in the primary memory C01E. When the above process is repeated until the index data of the currently loaded film C08 is completely created, the film cartridges C08C can be exchanged.

[0092]

Similarly, in order to exchange tapes, the deck open button COP03 is operated with the operation mode selecting switch COP09 set in the edit mode (E) position. Then the index data of the currently loaded film C08 is created on the tape and, thereafter, tapes can be exchanged.

[0093]

[Advantages of the Invention]

As described above, according to the present invention, a video camera incorporating a still camera is provided with: a silver salt picture shooting section having a silver salt picture recording means and a silver salt information recording means; a video signal recording section having a video signal recording means and a video information recording means; a video signal reproduction section having a video signal reproducing means, a video information reproducing means, and an

electric display device; a silver salt shooting information output means for outputting various items of information as to shooting; a silver salt information input means for inputting the various items of information as to shooting; and a control section for recording, reproducing, and displaying the silver salt information of the silver salt picture shooting section and the video information of the video signal recording section.

[0094]

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As a result, in the above structure, it is possible, on the one hand, to simultaneously record a silver salt picture and silver salt information, and, on the other hand, in the image signal recording section, to simultaneously record an image signal and image information. The silver salt information recorded during the recording of silver salt pictures and image signals can be displayed on the electric display device.

[0095]

For example, when silver salt picture shooting is performed during video movie shooting, the content of a silver salt picture can be displayed as a still picture during the reproduction of a video movie with reproduction conditions adjusted in accordance with the data obtained from the data area. Thus, by searching for, extracting, and then reproducing the data of a still picture recorded when a silver salt picture was taken, it is possible to view the content of a silver salt picture before the processing of the silver salt picture.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Fig. 1]

An outline construction diagram showing a video camera incorporating a still camera embodying the present invention.

[Fig. 2]

A plan view showing the appearance of the camera of the embodiment.

[Fig. 3]

A rear view showing the appearance of the camera of the embodiment.

[Fig. 4]

A front view showing the appearance of the camera of the embodiment.

[Fig. 5]

A bottom view showing the appearance of the camera of the embodiment.

[Fig. 6]

A detail plan view of the operation indication unit of the camera of the embodiment.

10 [Fig. 7]

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A block diagram showing the interconnection between the camera microcomputer and various portions of the camera of the invention, with respect to the flow of information.

[Fig. 8]

A diagram showing the state of the silver salt film pulled out from the film cartridge, schematically illustrating how information is recorded onto a magnetic layer.

[Fig. 9]

A diagram showing the data area on an 8mm-format videocassette tape.

20 [Fig. 10]

A detail diagram showing the exposure area and the print sizes of a film conforming to one film system.

[Fig. 11]

A diagram showing how information is recorded onto and reproduced from the video recording medium in the form of characters.

[Fig. 12]

A diagram showing an example of the index screen displayed in the EVF unit.

[Fig. 13]

A diagram showing examples of the edit screen.

[Fig. 14]

A diagram showing an example of index data created for a tape-form recording medium.

5		[Description of the Reference Designations]							
	L	Main lens	L01	Focus	ing operation ring				
	L02	Focusing operation ring condition	tion ring condition detector			Zooming operation ring			
	L04	Zooming operation ring condition	ion ring condition detecto			Focal length detector			
	L06	Lens microcomputer		L07	Zoom	Zooming motor			
10	L08	Zooming motor monitor	L09	Focus	Focusing motor				
	L10	Sound processor	L11	Main lens aperture diaphragm					
	L12	Main lens aperture diaphragm controller			L13	Stationary barrel			
	С	Camera body							
	C01								
15	C01A Silver salt film individual identification number/frame number output								
	C01B Shooting information output means								
	C01C	C Video recording medium individual identification number output means							
	C01D	Silver-salt/video information recording/reproduction/display control unit							
	C01E	Primary memory	C01F	Calcul	lation s	ection			
20	C02	Focus detector	C03	Camera-shake detector		e detector			
	C04	Pellicle mirror	C05	AF au	xiliary	mirror			
	C06	Shutter driver		C07	Shutte	er			
	C08	Film	C08A	Film l	eader p	ortion			
	C08B	Portion corresponding to a frame	C08C	Film c	artridg	e			
25	C09	Film advancing controller	C10	Conde	enser le	ns			
	C11	Reflecting mirror	C12	Bright	ness de	etector			
	C13	ND filter	C14	Relay	lens				
	C15	ND filter controller	C16	Optica	al low-p	oass filter			

	C17	IR cut filter	C18	Relay	aperture diaphragm		
	C19	Relay aperture diaphragm control	ler	C20	Accessory shoe		
	C21	CCD image sensor	C22	Image	forming processor		
	C23	CCD driving pulse generator	C24	Image	processor		
5	C25	Recording/reproduction converte	er		C26 Head		
	C27	EVF unit	C28	Recor	ding medium		
	C29	Battery	C30	Data/p	power-supply contacts		
	C31	Sound processor	C32	Outpu	ıt port		
	C33	Speaker	C34	Sterec	eophonic microphone		
10	C35	Operation indication unit	C35A	Large-	size liquid crystal display panel		
	C35B	Lamp	C36	Record	ding medium driver		
	C37	Silver salt information recording s	ection	C40	Battery cavity lid		
	C41	Tripod hole					
	COP	Operation unit	COP0	1 Relea	se button		
1 5	COP0	2 Mode switching dial	COP0	3 Deck	open button		
	COP04 Still-picture-preview/fade-out button						
	COP0	5 Lens exchange button	COP0	6 Red-	eye reduction button		
	COP0	7 Scene select button	COP0	8 Film	cartridge exchange button		
·	COP09 Operation mode selecting switch						
20	COP10 Silver salt shooting frame aspect ratio changing switch						
	COP1	1 Video movie frame size changing	switch	ı			
	COP1	2 Program button	COP1	3 Zoon	n button		
	COP1	4 Aperture diaphragm opening but	ton				
	COP1	5 Camera-shake compensation ON	OFF a	nd expo	osure compensation button		
25	COP16 First liquid crystal unit pop-up button						
	COP17 Forced flashing button						
	COP1	OP18 Message display ON/OFF button					
	COP1	P19 Sound-volume/picture-quality adjustment button					

COP20 Second liquid crystal pop-up button

COP21 Automatic rewinding button

COP22 Self-timer button

COP30 Rewind button

COP31 Playback button

COP32 Fast-forward button

5 COP33 Stop button

COP34 Pause button

COP35 Counter ON/OFF button

COP36 Automatic button

COP37 Menu button

COP38 Standby button

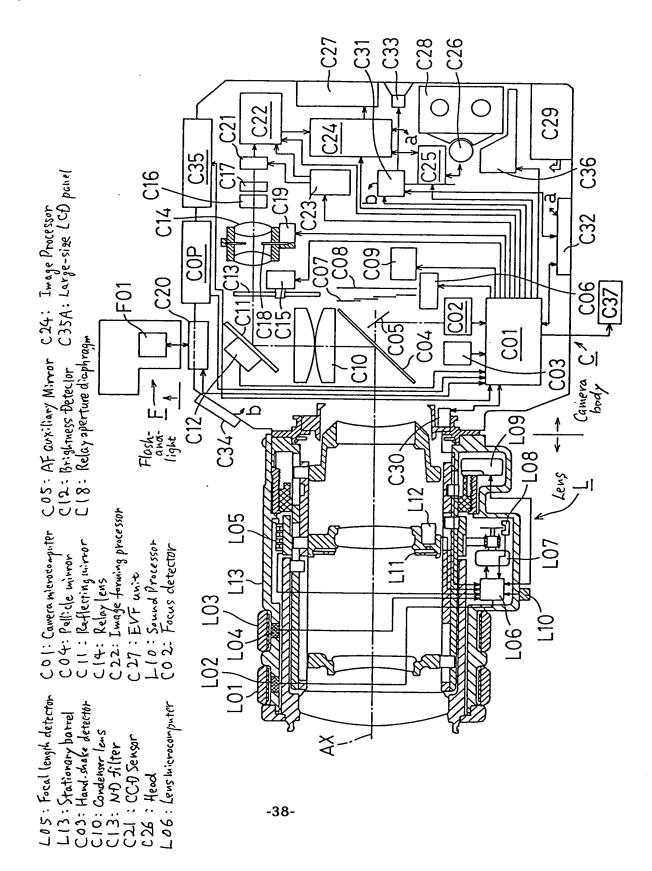
F Flash-and-light

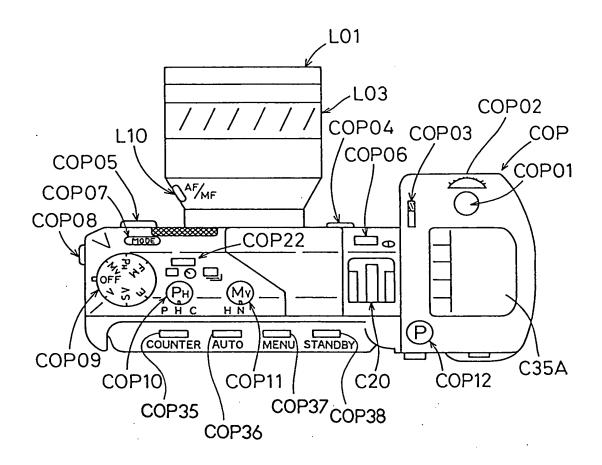
F01 Flash-and-light operational controller

G Silver salt information input means

[Title of the Document] Drawings

[Fig. 1]





COP: Operation Unit

COPOl: Release button

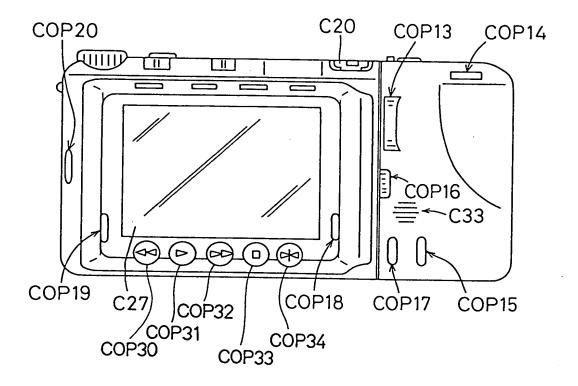
Copo2: Mode switching dial Copo7: Scene select button

COPO9: Operation mode selecting smitch

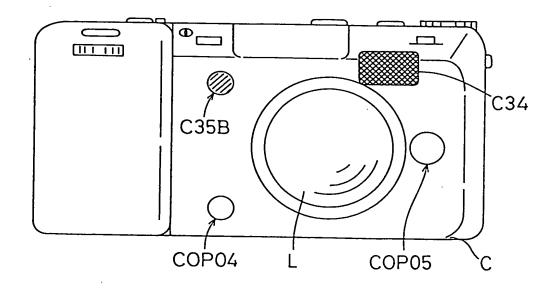
COPIO: Silver salt shouting frame aspect ratio changing switch COPII: Video movie frame size changing switch

COPIA: Program button

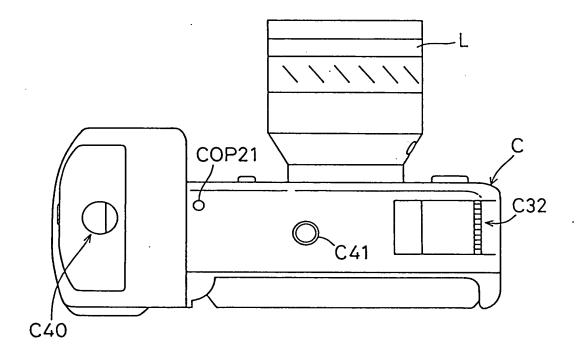
[Fig. 3]

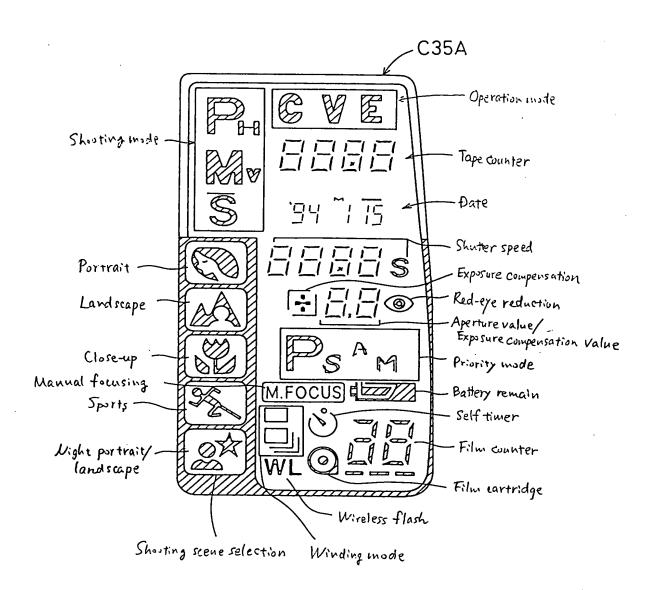


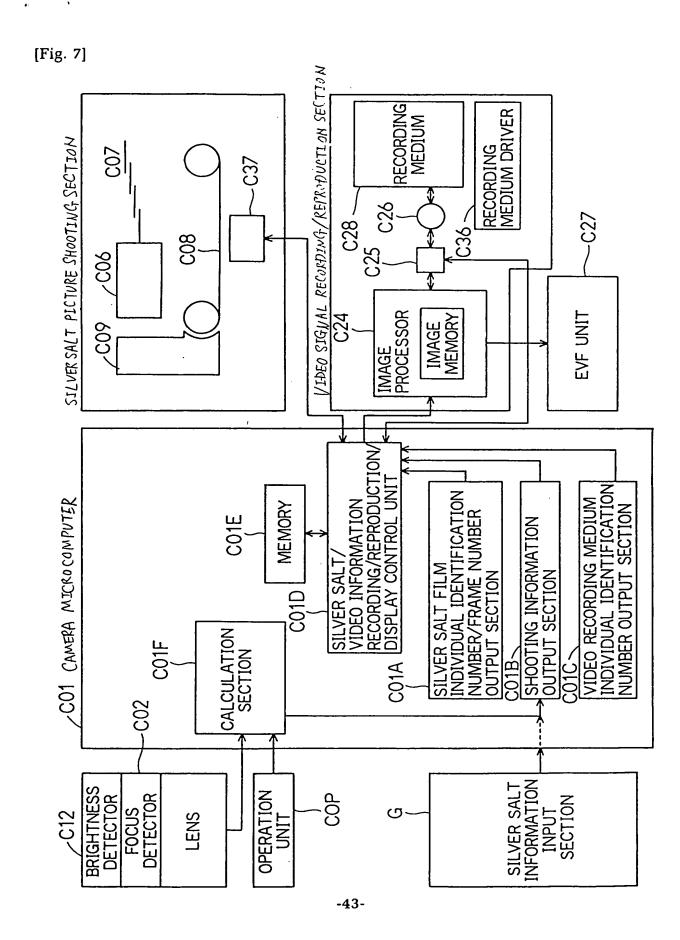
[Fig. 4]



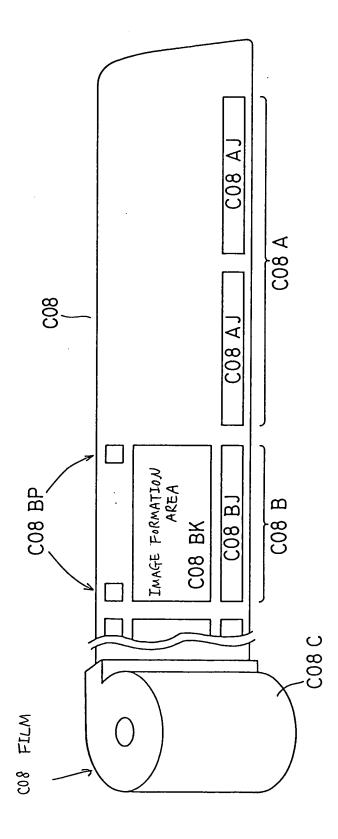
[Fig. 5]



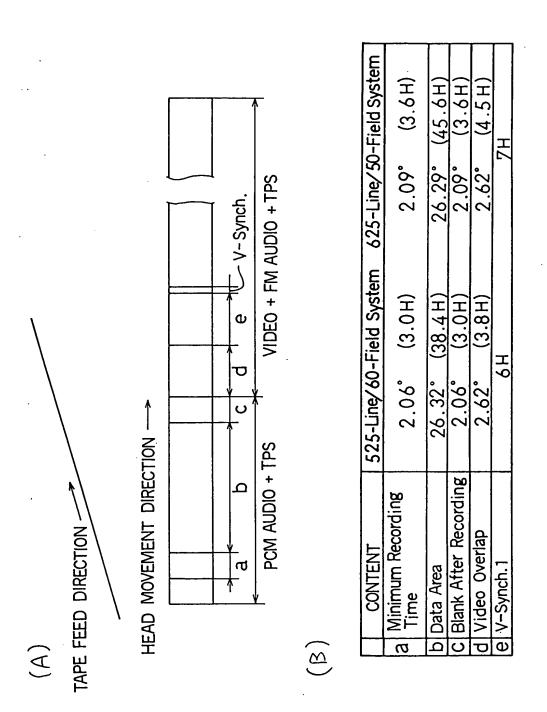


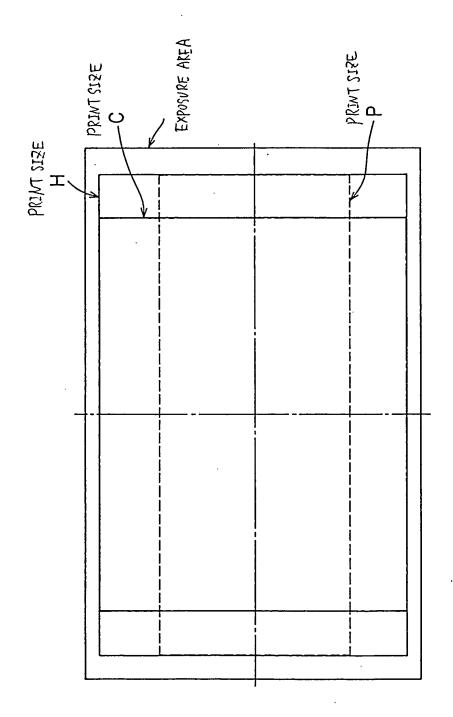


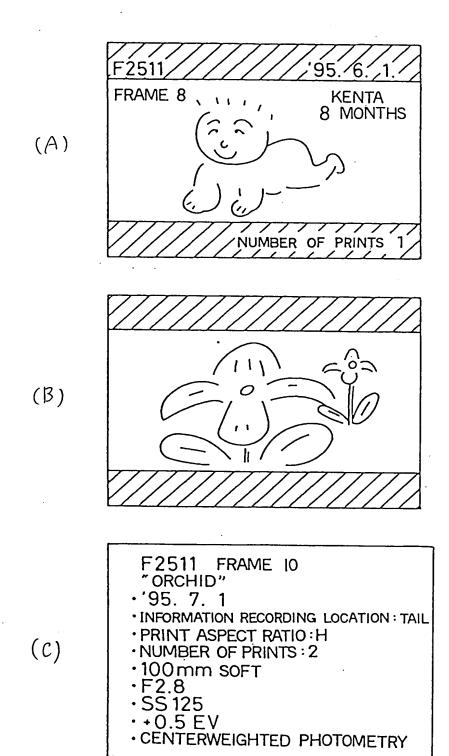
[Fig. 8]



[Fig. 9]



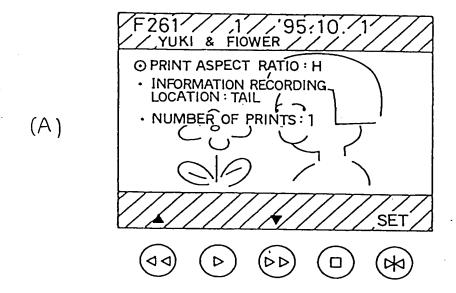


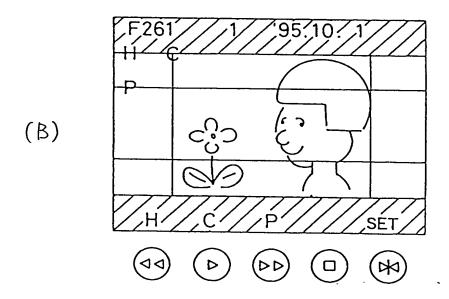


[Fig. 12]

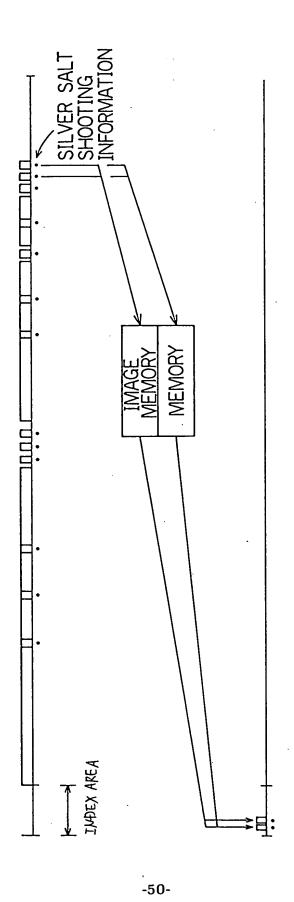
	6 '95.8.29 ~ '95.1 IE No. DATE	0.1 PRINT SIZE	QTY					
19	'95.10.1.16:00	Н	1					
	YUKI & FLOWER	₹						
18	' 95. 9.30. 17:20	Н	1					
17	'95. 9.306:00	P	1					
1	MT. FUJI							
16	' 95. 9.16. 18:00	Н	1					
15	'95. 9.16. 17:58	С	1					
GRANDPA								
. 🔺	PLAYBACK ▼	S	ET					

(4) (b) (b) (c) (b)





[Fig. 14]



[Title of the Document] Abstract
[Abstract]

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[Object] To provide a video camera incorporating a still camera which is provided with a function for displaying still-picture shooting information in a display unit when it is necessary to search a recording medium for still-picture shooting information during reproduction in the case where still-picture shooting is performed during video movie shooting.

[Features] In a simultaneous shooting mode, silver salt shooting is performed during recording of a movie. During editing, a controller C01D reads out the shooting data related to the currently loaded film C08 as stored in a primary memory C01E provided in a camera microcomputer C01, and transmits the data to an image processor C24 to display it as index data in an EVF unit C27. In this state, when the camera microcomputer C01 instructs a recording medium driver C36 to feed the film backward, a head C26 reproduces the data recorded in a data area. During this reproduction, when data of a still picture is found on the recording medium, the feeding of the film is stopped for a while, and the still-picture data and the shooting data thereof are reproduced and displayed in the EVF unit C27.

[Selected Figure] Fig. 7

[Title of the Document] Ex-officio Correction Data

[Corrected Document] Petition

<Acknowledged and Additional Information>

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[Identification Number] 000006079

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1. Date of Correction July 20, 1994

[Grounds for Correction] Change in Corporation Name

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